



Town Administrator
Tel. (978) 371-6688

Town of Carlisle

Office of

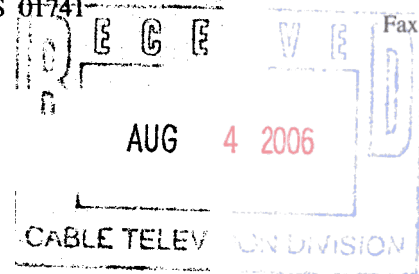
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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August 11, 2006



Ms. Andrea Nixon
Clerk, Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Street
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Clerk:

The Town of Carlisle would like to register its strong opposition to Verizon's rulemaking petition files with the Cable Division of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on March 16, 2006.

The proposed rules would require a municipality to hold a public hearing on an initial cable television license application within 60 days of the application filing, and would require 30 days from the time of the public hearing for the municipality to approve or disapprove the application, and issue the actual license in case of approval. This time frame does not allow municipalities adequate time to review proposals, get input from appropriate committees, and properly inform residents of the issues (particularly because of the non-standard terms and conditions commonly reported to be included in the Verizon-proposed cable licenses) within the initial 60 days. The 30 days being proposed as a time frame for issuing a contract after approval at a public hearing is ludicrous. In the best of circumstances it is untenable to conduct negotiations, have counsel input, and draft a license in that time frame.

The current license timetables work very effectively. There should not be change to accommodate a single proponent. There has been no reasonable rationale introduced for setting aside the licensing rules as set forth in the 1984 Cable Act. If the rules were to be changed, they should be tightened to better protect communities (and ultimately the residents of the Commonwealth) rather than being abbreviated.

The Town of Carlisle is in opposition to the Verizon proposal. There is significant concern that under the proposed rules that our community will not have the ability to properly negotiate Verizon cable proposals to best benefit our residents. Verizon should be able to negotiate in the same fair and reasonable manner that other providers have over the years. Verizon should not be granted an abbreviated process that could be detrimental to communities.

Please consider the ramifications to communities and reject the Verizon petition, thus allowing local officials to continue to serve their residents by negotiating fair and responsible contracts. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions or wish further comment, please do not hesitate to contact me at 968-371-6688 or mmckenzie@carlisle.mec.edu.

Sincerely,



Madonna J. McKenzie
Town Administrator

cc Senator Edward Kennedy
 Senator John Kerry
 State Senator Susan Fargo
 State Representative Cory Atkins

[REDACTED]